

**PORTLAOISE
PARISH**
**link
up**

16th February 2020

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Over 300 young people will be Confirmed in our Parish Church in 3 ceremonies on 28th /29th February.

At their baptism a candle was lit for them and their parents and godparents were asked to 'keep the flame of faith' burning brightly for them. In a beautiful ceremony of light on Wednesday last this 'flame of faith' was handed to the young girls and boys as they begin to take responsibility for their own faith. May Confirmation help them 'to walk always as children of the Light'

The Parish Centre 057 8621142
E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

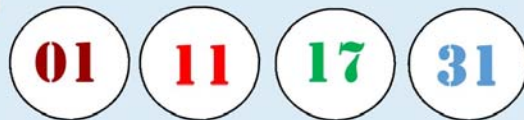
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Parish and Diocesan Websites: www.portlaoiseparish.ie www.kandle.ie

Portlaoise Parish



Results for
13th February 2020



No **€20,000** Jackpot Winner

WINNERS

Matthew, Connie & Alanah
Mairead Saunders
Ann Ward
Tony Fitzpatrick
John & Maura
Marguerite Walshe
Elizabeth Traynor
Mary Doherty
Mary Thompson
Peter Ryan
Sheila McCabe
Aoife & Martin Walsh
Angela Deery
Margaret McGrath
Brian Bredin
Caitlin Arthur

16
Match 3s
€63
each

Play PARISH



www.portlaoiseparish.ie

PROMOTER

Bernie Lalor
Mairead Saunders
Ann Ward
Tony Fitzpatrick
Maura Loughlin
Marguerite Walshe
Lotto Gift
Lotto Gift
Barbara Dowling
Peter Ryan
Paul Dooley
Paul Dooley
Kathleen Rigney
Mgt. McGrath
Mgt. McGrath
Mary Arthur

Next Week's Jackpot **€20,000**

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Priests of the Parish



Msgr. John Byrne P.P.V.G.
Tel: 057 8621142



Fr. Ciprian Matei C.C.
Tel: 057 8509998



Fr. David Vard C.C.
Tel: 057 8661139



Fr. Eddie Lalor C.C.
Tel: 057 8661605



Fr. Tom O'Connor P.E.
(Parish Chaplain)

To contact the Priest on Duty:
Parish Centre during office hours
Tel: 057 8621142
Outside office hours
in emergency only

Safeguarding

All safeguarding statements and policies can be viewed on our website and in our Church Porches.

Diocesan Designated Liaison Person
Mick Daly dlp@kandle.ie

Parish Centre



Office Hours Monday to Friday 9am-5pm
Phone: 057-8621142 / 057-8660722
E-mail: info@portlaoiseparish.ie
Twitter: @portlaoiseparis
Facebook: PortlaoiseParishLaois

MANAGER Declan Kelly

Parish Secretaries Michelle Bartley
Agnieszka Kaczmarek

Accounts Michelle Conroy

Sacristans Parish Church

Sr. Sybil and Sr. Julie

All Masses and services from the Parish Church are live streamed at www.portlaoiseparish.ie



Secretary: Julie Conroy
Monday to Thursday
11am-1pm & 2.15pm-5pm
057-8692154

E-mail: linkup@portlaoiseparish.ie
Advertising deadline: 12noon Wednesday
subject to availability of space

PARISH SHOP - 057 8621142

The Feast of the Chair of Peter

Saturday
22nd February

In every diocese, the 'head church' is called the cathedral. The word cathedral, is derived from the Latin word cathedra,



which means chair. Ever since the times in which the apostles lived, the bishop's cathedra, or chair, has symbolised leadership and authority..... the same authority that Jesus first gave to Peter, our first pope. The feast of the 'Chair of Saint Peter' commemorates the establishment of the See of Rome.



Follow Your Heart

It's a sad truth that those who walk free from court aren't necessarily innocent. Sometimes the man or woman who walks free from court simply has the better solicitor. Lawyers do a good and valuable job, but it has to be said that some lawyers take more pride in finding legal loopholes than the truth.

In today's gospel reading Jesus invites us to consider that it is not just laws in themselves that are important but our attitude towards those laws. Perhaps we haven't committed murder, but have we harboured hatred? We might not have committed adultery, but have we failed to live up to the love we once promised our spouse? We might not have committed theft, but are our hearts set on the wealth our neighbours have earned? Laws might seem to fence our lives with rods of uncompromising iron, but most laws are simply expressions of how we should behave towards each other. The unwritten laws of love bind us in promises that we wouldn't dream of compromising let alone riddling with loopholes. When it comes to those we love, we don't need a statute book, our heart tells us what to do. The written law should be no different.

Laws are written down in books of statute and commandments are written in the Bible, but the spirit of the law must exist in our hearts. What exists in our hearts is as important if not more important than our actions. As a newly qualified driver mentally rehearses his or her first solo drive, so we must follow where our hearts go first.



Mass times for the coming week

(Parish Church or otherwise stated)

Monday – Friday

7.30am & 10am

Saturday

10am

SUNDAY MASSES

Scoil Bhride, Knockmay (Saturday) 7.30pm

St. Peter & Paul's Parish Church

Vigil (Saturday) 6.30pm

8.30am, 10am, 11.15am & 12.30pm

Church of the Assumption,

The Heath: 9.30am

Church of the Holy Cross,

Ratheniska: 10am.

CONFESSIONS

Every Saturday after 10am

& 6.30pm Masses.

Mass for our Lithuanian community takes place in the Parish Church this Saturday at 7.30pm.

Mass for the Polish community will be celebrated in the Parish Church on Sunday (16th February) at 5pm.



We welcome into our Parish Community

Georgia Mae Costigan, Dysart

Mollie Marie Haslam, Irishtown

Noah Thomas Moore, Woodgrove Lawns

Ellie Rose McLoughlin, Bruach na Habhann

Ava Margaret Farrell, The Poplars

Evan Desmond Hilliard, Oakleaf Crescent

Jody Patrick Delaney, Rossleighan

Bernard Martin McDonagh, Kirwan Park

who was baptised last weekend

Visit our website: www.portlaoiseparish.ie

Email: info@portlaoiseparish.ie

Sunday 9th February 2020

Offertory Collection €2,571.00

Development Fund €3,049.00

€5,620.00

Our thanks and appreciation to all who subscribe so generously to the Parish.

LIFE



Life is an opportunity, seize it

Life is a beauty, admire it

Life is a blessing, appreciate it

Life is a dream, make it a reality

Life is a challenge, face it

Life is a duty, respect it

Life is a game, play it

Life is rich, treasure it

Life is love, rejoice in it



Life is a mystery, solve it

Life is a promise, fulfil it

Life is sadness, overcome it

Life is a rhythm, sing it

Life is a battle, understand it

Life is a tragedy, accept it

Life is an adventure, live it

Life is happiness, merit it

Life is life, defend it.



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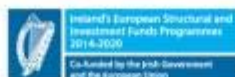
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ORTHOTICS



Who may benefit from wearing Orthotics?

Orthotics are prescribed for a variety of conditions and as a prevention to further problems. They can be worn by children and adults and made to suit a range of footwear including daywear, dress wear and sportswear.

PEOPLE WHO ARE ON THEIR FEET A LOT;

Prison Officers, Nurses, Shop Workers, Farmers etc. may require additional cushioning and correction.

ELDERLY PEOPLE;

May benefit from Orthotics to support, comfort & Correct the Mechanics of the feet. Conditions such as arthritis and diabetes may require softer coverings.

SPORTS PEOPLE;

May need to be aligned biomechanically to prevent problems and cushioned for shock absorbency.

CHILDREN;

Who are in toeing, out toeing, have poor posture or gait or where parents notice excessive wear.

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Forgiving and Forgiven

At Mass on Sunday we have a collection called the offertory collection which takes place after the Prayers of the faithful. Most of you have probably brought a coin for your offering today. There are many places in the Bible that teach us the importance of presenting an offering to God, but the truth is that God is more interested in what's in our heart than he is in what's in our hand.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said to people long ago, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you will be subject to judgement.' But I say, even if you are angry with someone, you are subject to judgment." He went on to say that you will be face God's judgment if you call someone a bad name or curse them.

What did Jesus say we should do if we are guilty of any of these things? He said, "If you are presenting your offering to God and you remember that you have said something that hurt another person, leave your gift at the altar and go and ask forgiveness from that person. Then come back and offer your gift to God."

Before we give our offering today, perhaps we should ask ourselves a few questions. Have I been angry with someone this week? Have I had any arguments lately? Have I called someone a bad name? Have I said something about someone that wasn't true? If so, we should ask God to forgive us and we should go to the person we have hurt and ask them to forgive us. When we have done that, God will be pleased with our offering.

"Forgive" is a great old hymn written by Corinne Williams. The first verse of this hymn would be a good prayer for us today.

**Forgive the things I've said in haste, O Lord, today,
As evening shadows fold again the light away;
O take away the sting and hurt from hearts, I pray;
And heal the wounded spirits, Lord, in Thine own way!**

**Dear God, sometimes we say things in anger that hurt other people.
Help us to guard against hateful and hurtful words and forgive us as we
ask those we have hurt to forgive us as well.**

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Play & Pray

Play and Pray will be back on 1st March



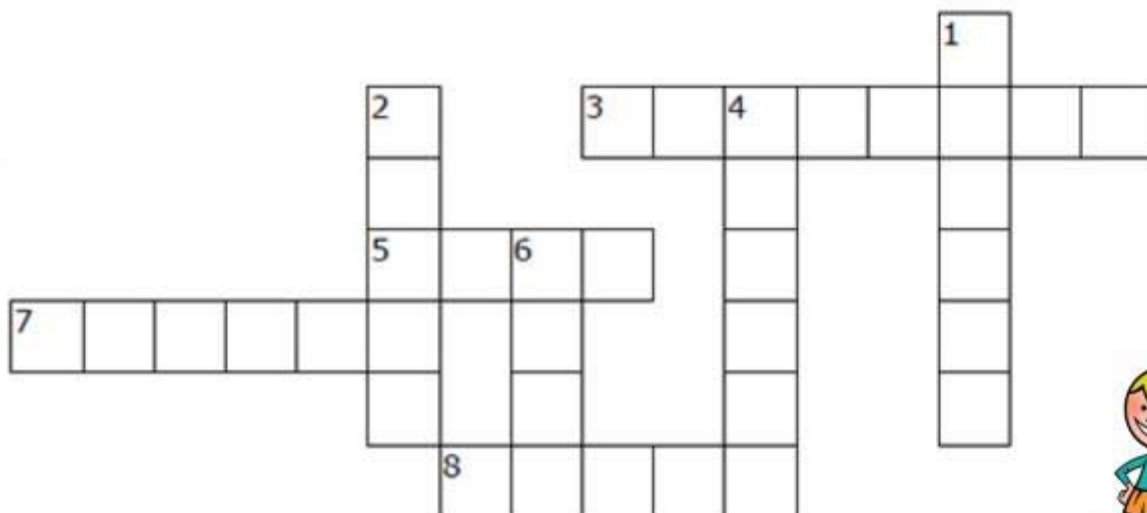
The Chair of St. Peter - Saturday 22nd February

Sometimes simple celebrations are the best. Next Saturday is the feast of the Chair of Saint Peter. This is when the Church stops to celebrate the papacy. Before Jesus rose to heaven he appointed a leader, the pope, here on earth to guide us.

We weren't just blessed with our first pope, Saint Peter, but for over 2000 years the Lord has guided the Church through the Pope.

FORGIVING AND FORGIVEN

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift" Matthew 5:21-25



ACROSS

1. To decide if a person is guilty or innocent.
5. A present that is given to another person.
7. Killing of a person by another person.
8. The place where gifts or sacrifices to God are made.

DOWN

1. A group of human beings (men, women or children)
2. To be furious
4. To be at risk of being injured or harmed.
6. A person who lacks good sense.

DANGER

PEOPLE

ANGRY

MURDER

JUDGMENT

GIFT

ALTAR

FOOL



TIME TO THINK!

DON'T JUDGE OTHERS BEFORE YOU KNOW THEM

A 24 year old boy looking out the train window shouted...

'Dad, look the trees are going behind!'

Dad smiled and a young couple sitting nearby, looked at the 24 year old's childish behaviour with pity, suddenly he again exclaimed...

'Dad, look the clouds are running with us!'

The couple couldn't resist and said to the old man...

'Why don't you take your son to a good doctor?'

The old man smiled and said...'I did and we are just coming from the hospital, my son was blind from birth, he just got his eyes today.'

Every single person on the planet has a story. Don't judge people before you truly know them. The truth might surprise you."

Christianity is the only religion which worships the scapegoat, the one who is hated, excluded, spat upon, blamed for everything, ridiculed, shamed, and made expendable. Christianity is the only religion that focuses on imitating the victim and which sees God in the one who is surrounded by the halo of hatred.

There are some important lessons to be learned from this, not the least of which has to do with where we see truth, goodness, and God. We need, today, some correctives since we live in a culture which, not unlike most cultures in the past, scapegoats some persons to the benefit of others and then identifies God and holiness with those who have created the scapegoats.

God is not to be confusedly identified with the myths of success, power, glamour, popularity. Never confuse God - or what is holy - with current cultural religion, which, antithetical to Christ, worships the included, the glamorous, the ones who aren't shamed and ridiculed, and the ones who seem important or indispensable. The God of our culture and the God that is preached in so many of our churches is not the God who dies on a cross, is hated, spat upon, and is excluded and scapegoated out of ignorance. No, our culture does not worship a crucified God. The God Jesus revealed is still, in our very own culture, excluded, mocked, scapegoated, made expendable, and often killed, mostly in the name of God and truth.



DON'T JUDGE PEOPLE,
YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT
KIND OF BATTLE THEY ARE
FIGHTING.

~UNKNOWN

Where do we see this?

Our own culture, like every other culture past and present, creates a category of persons that it deems expendable and then subsequently victimises through exclusion, ridicule, scapegoating, and often through actual death. The ones who constitute that category shift slightly from time to time, but there is always a common denominator: it includes always those who are the weakest.

Thus, for instance, our culture marginalises and scapegoats the sick, the poor, the handicapped, the unborn, unattractive, non-productive and the aged. These we deem expendable and subsequently take away full status within the human race. Worse still, we identify God and holiness with those who are doing the excluding, as for instance the ruling party. But this is antithetical to true religion - and true wisdom.

Where is God? God is on the side of the victim, standing with the one who is excluded, and especially present in the one being ridiculed, and dying in the one who is being put to death.

True Christianity knows this. It worships the scapegoat - the one who is surrounded by the halo of hatred. Populist mantras, such as "building walls" or deal or no deal....Brexit will happen..... seriously challenges what true Christianity is about.

May values of tolerance, inclusion & compassion represent the Gospel message of love and forgiveness.

Fr. Paddy invites you to follow him on Twitter @frpaddybyrne, now over 17,000 followers or @AbbeyleixP or leave a comment on his blog on our parish website; www.portlaoiseparish.ie/articles

Fr. Paddy's book *"All will be well"* on sale in the Parish Shop or online at www.portlaoiseparish.ie

Spring

up to

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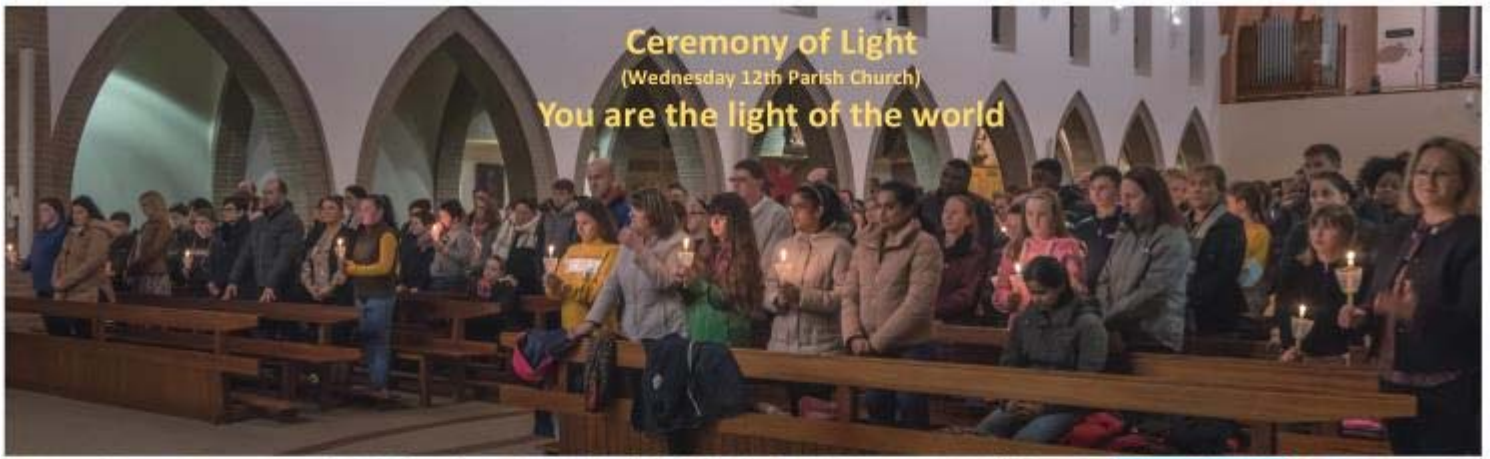
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PORTLAOISE

Ceremony of Light
(Wednesday 12th Parish Church)
You are the light of the world



Pollinator Habitat

A 'Pollinator Habitat' has been established in our Parish Church grounds (Stradbally Road side). Suitable planting makes this 'a Bee friendly' area. Thank you to those who created it. One third of our bee species are threatened with extinction. We have drastically reduced the amount of food (flowers) and safe nesting sites in our landscapes. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is about all of us coming together to create an Ireland where pollinators can survive and thrive.

We hope that this little effort will help.

Photo: Sr. Ann Pender, Ann O'Keeffe, Christine Lacey, Richard Defew, Peter Ryan, Mary Scully, Sheila Heffernan, Angela Dunne, Maura Scully.



All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

10 ways to help pollinators

- 1

Let Dandelions bloom

Dandelions provide vital food for hungry bees in spring.
- 2

Reduce mowing

Mow every 6 weeks from mid-April to allow flowers like clover to grow and provide food.
- 3

Pollinator friendly bulbs

Plant Crocus, Allium or Snow-drop bulbs. They provide better food than Daffodils and Tulips.
- 4

Pollinator friendly bedding

Begonias, Petunias and Busy Lizzies don't provide food for pollinators. See our website for alternatives e.g. Calceolaria repens.
- 5

Plant native flowering trees

Willow, Hawthorn and Blackthorn flowers provide important food for pollinators.
- 6

Don't spray

The overuse of herbicides is making it difficult for pollinators to find enough flowers to feed from.
- 7

Bare soil for nesting

Most of our bees need bare soil to nest. Create a small south-facing earth bank to provide shelter.
- 8

Put up signage

Inform the public where land is being managed for pollinators. See our website for templates.
- 9

Junior Pollinator Plan

Download the Junior Plan from our website and help educate the next generation.
- 10

Record your actions

Log your actions on our website to help us track the increase in pollinator resources in the landscape!

The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 is a strategy addressing pollinator declines and protecting pollination services on the island of Ireland. See the website to find out what other actions you can take to help.

National Biodiversity Data Centre

10 ways to help pollinators

A 'Pollinator Habitat' has been established in our Parish Church grounds (Stradbally Road side). Suitable planting makes this 'a Bee friendly' area. Thank you to those who created it. One third of our bee species are threatened with extinction. We have drastically reduced the amount of food (flowers) and safe nesting sites in our landscapes. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is about all of us coming together to create an Ireland where pollinators can survive and thrive.

We hope that this little effort will help.

Photo: Sr. Ann Pender, Ann O'Keeffe, Christine Lacey, Richard Defew, Peter Ryan, Mary Scully, Sheila Heffernan, Angela Dunne, Maura Scully.

pollinators.ie



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OUR PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR
THOSE WHO DIED RECENTLY ;



*Dr. Hugh (Hugo)
Gath*

Elm Lawn



Brian Larkin
Marian Avenue

Norton Williams - Dublin

(Husband of Eileen O' Reilly, Dublin Rd.)

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE
Our sympathy to their families.

† **KEEGAN'S** †
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✠ **In Loving Memory of** ✠
CATHERINE DOWLING

7 Borris Road, Portlaoise whose Anniversary
occurs 19th February 2020



*Will those who think of Catherine today,
A little prayer to Jesus say.*

*Always remembered by all
her loving family.*

Rest in Peace Catherine



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In Loving Memory of
MARGARET LAWLESS

52 Lakeglen, Portlaoise.



"On a cold night in February
You heard a gentle call
You took the hand of Jesus
And gently left us all
You suffered much in silence
But your spirit did not bend
You faced each day with courage
And smiled until the end
The mother we love is missing
Our family tree not complete
Your smile we long to see
Your voice we loved is still
Those hands that did so much for us
Are resting at gods will"

Mam

We long to hear your heart again and see your smile once more
The love you have for us, helps us to mourn
But deep down in our hearts we long to go back in time
And tell you just one more time " I love you"
One more time

*Remembered daily and missed greatly by your loving husband
Sonny, grandchildren Tamara, Thomas, Jack, Luke and Rhea
And your loving sons and partners Thomas and Louise,
Alan and David, Terry and Siobhan.
Love you always and forever xxxxxxxxxxxxxx*

Rest in Peace Mam

In Loving Memory of
MARGARET LAWLESS

52 Lakeglen, Portlaoise.

1st Anniversary occurs 18th February 2020



Treasured thoughts of one so dear,
Often bring a silent tear,
Thoughts of scenes long past,
Years roll on but memories last.

*Sadly missed by her loving sisters and brothers,
nieces, nephews and extended family, relatives
and friends.*

Rest in Peace Margaret



In Loving Memory of
MICHAEL RIGNEY

St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.

4th Anniversary occurs 18th February 2020.

4th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's
Parish Church this Sunday 16th February at 12.30pm



*No words can tell, no tears express, the love,
the loss, the emptiness.*

*You are not just a memory or part of the past.
You are ours to remember, as long as life lasts.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by your
loving wife Kathleen, family and friends.*

May Mick Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
KATHLEEN QUIGLEY

née Loughlin

London and formerly 44 St. John's Square, Portlaoise.

Died 14th October 2019



A Memorial Mass for Kathleen will be
celebrated in
Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on
Saturday 22nd February at 10am,
followed by burial of ashes in
Mountmellick.

*Sadly missed by her son Mark, daughter Sharon and all her
loving family, extended family and friends.*

May Kathleen Rest in Peace

In Loving Memory of
KATHLEEN BRACKEN

née Dunne

Ballyfin Road, Portlaoise. 6th Anniversary occurs at this time.



6th Anniversary Mass will be celebrated
in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church
this Saturday 15th February at 6.30pm.

*Will those who think of Kathleen today,
A little prayer to Jesus say.*

Loved always by Larry, Frances & family.

May Kathleen Rest in Peace

GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO MUCH
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON
JOHN 3:16



The final deadline for receipt
of all Anniversaries and
Acknowledgements is
12 noon Wednesday.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
In Loving Memory of
MARTIN WALSH

118 St. Brigid's Place, Portlaoise.
Died 21st January 2020



Martin's wife Margaret together with sons Anthony and Joe, daughters Mary, Tina, Attracta, Patricia and Colette and extended family wish to thank most sincerely those who sympathised with us on the death of Martin and all those who attended the Rosary, funeral Mass and burial,

sent Mass and sympathy cards and flowers, and supported the family during his illness.

A special word of thanks to Dr. Gullane and all in Annebrook Medical Centre, Portlaoise, to Mr. Siddiqui and all his team in Portlaoise Hospital and to all in Hughes's Pharmacy, Portlaoise.

We are forever grateful to the Doctors and Staff in Clane Hospital, Dr. Salib and his team in the Hermitage Clinic and to Prof. McDermott, his team and all the wonderful staff in the Beacon Hospital.

A special thank you to Phyllis Howlin and her Palliative Care Team and all the Public Health Nurses. To Judy of Home Instead Senior Care and his carers, especially Mary and Kevin, who cared for Martin at home, we are eternally grateful for the exceptional care shown.

To Monsignor Byrne, Fr. Eddie Lalor and all the Priests of Portlaoise Parish and Fr. Michael Kelly, Shanahoe Parish, thank you for celebrating such a beautiful Mass. Our thanks especially to Fr. David Vard who visited Dad at home and in hospital.

To Franzita and Ava, thank you both for the amazing singing.

Thank you to Keegan's Undertakers for their professionalism, kindness and support and to the grave diggers for preparing Martin's final resting place with such care.

We are very grateful to the Gardai of Portlaoise for the traffic management on the day of the funeral and to the staff of the ESB for providing the guard of honour. Martin would have been so proud.

Thank you to Declan Kelly and the staff of the Parish Centre and to Bosco's Catering for the lovely food and refreshments. Many people were so kind to Martin and all the family throughout his illness and we would like to thank you all, especially our family, friends and neighbours in St. Brigid's place, thank you for your continued help and support.

As it would be impossible to thank everybody individually, please accept this acknowledgement as an expression of our sincere appreciation and deepest gratitude.

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be offered for your intentions.

Martin's Months Mind Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church on Saturday 22nd February at 6.30pm.

Rest in Peace Martin

In Loving Memory of
SEAN KEOGH

Late of 6 Park View, Portlaoise. 9th Anniversary. Died 14/2/2011.



Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in Sts. Peter & Paul's Parish Church this **Saturday 15th February at 6:30pm.**

*Sean, deep in our hearts your memory is kept,
To love and to cherish and never forget.*

*Sadly missed and always remembered by his loving wife
Brid and all his family.*

May Sean Rest in Peace

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Friday, 21st February 2020

In St. Fintan's Parish Church, Mountrath

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MUSIC

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RELIGIOUS NOTICES

Adoration: Mon. to Fri. after 10am Mass, concluding with Rosary 7pm. Saturday after 10am Mass, concluding with Rosary 6pm. Sunday at 2:30pm, concluding with Rosary 7pm. Sunday, 2:30-3:30pm - special time of prayer for vocations to the Priesthood.

Rosary: Please join the Prayer for Ireland team in praying the Rosary daily at 9.30pm on the Parish radio (106.5fm) or web cam.

Rosary at the Grotto: First Fridays and all Feast days to Our Lady, 8pm.

The Rosary is recited in St. Brigid's Church, Shanahoe every Monday evening at 8pm. All are welcome.

Legion of Mary: meeting every Wed. night at 8pm in the Prayer room of the Parish Church.

Parish Bereavement Support: If you have lost a loved one, there is a confidential one to one support service available (by appointment), call 087-9878300.

Divine Mercy Prayer Meeting: Every Monday 8-9pm in the Prayer room of Portlaoise Parish Church.

St. Joseph's Young Priest Society: Please join us for a Holy Hour at 3pm every Friday, as we pray for vocations to the Priesthood and religious life. All are welcome.

Bus to Life in the Holy Spirit Seminars at Emmanuel House.

Clonfert: Starting Sun. 23rd February at 2:30pm for 7 consecutive Sundays to 5th April. Bishop Michael Duignan will be the chief celebrant. Advance booking for the bus is essential. Phone 059-9151245 / 087-2245193.

"Meditating... Being Mindful... Seeking God": In the Parish Church (old sacristy), Thursdays, 11am to 12 noon. New members welcome.

An Spioraid Naoimh Praying Community Praise and Worship Meeting will be held in Portlaoise Parish Centre, Thurs. 20th February, starting at 7:30pm, concluding at 9:30pm. Format: Rosary, Praise and Worship with Music Ministry.

Guest Speaker: Fr. Sean Hyland cc; *Whisperings Of My Soul a Powerful Testimony*

Contact Michael Nerney for details at 086-8157305. All are welcome.

USEFUL SERVICES

Accord: Going through a difficult time in your marriage/relationship? Counselling Services available at Accord, Parish Centre, Portlaoise, call 057-8661581 or e-mail us at; accordportlaoise@hotmail.com

COMMUNITY NOTES

Portlaoise Active Retirement Association (ARA)

Bowls:

Every Monday in St. Mary's Hall at 3pm - regular and new members are always welcome to come along and take part and become a member of the ARA Bowls team.

Whist:

Play or learn Whist at Sue Ryder Centre every Thursday from 2.30pm to 4pm. All are welcome. Absolute beginners and improvers are catered for. Learn an enjoyable past-time and meet new friends.

19th Feb: An afternoon of fun and hilarity with a Valentine theme is planned, so it is time to sift through the wardrobe and remember Pink is the magic colour. An opportunity to dress in a wild and colourful way and imagine you are 21 again. We may not be young in years but we can always be Young at Heart.

16th Feb: Portlaoise ARA will be taking part in a function at Killeshin Hotel, in conjunction with a fashion show, and we will have a table and racks of new or nearly new clothes for sale, as well as many other items jewellery, glassware etc. All items will be in excellent condition and all at bargain prices. This is an effort to raise some funds for our Club. Come early and snap wonderful bargains.

Portlaoise GROW Group: GROW Community Mental Health Movement support group meets weekly in Portlaoise Parish Centre at 7.30pm on Wednesdays. If you feel anxious, isolated or are suffering from stress why not come learn a practical psychology of mental health. Contact Michelle 086-4183805 or visit our website; www.grow.ie. [GROW Promoting Positive Mental Health].

Financial Talk: Friday 28th February in Portlaoise Parish Centre from 11am to 1pm. Mr Pauric Druhan from Pearse Trust in Dublin will speak regarding financial issues associated with families of special needs children/adults. This is a free talk offered by Family Carers Ireland and all are welcome to attend.

Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

(Subject to availability of space or 5pm Tuesday to guarantee inclusion)

Advertising deadline;

**12 noon
Wednesday**

**St. Francis Special School
New Road, Portlaoise**



Enrolment for September 2020 will close at 3pm on Friday 13th March, 2020. Enquiries to 057-8621847

**THE HEATH HALL &
CEMETERY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL WALK**



**Sunday 23rd February
at 3pm**

*Proceeds in aid of the
restoration of the
Heath Church*

FOR SALE

Medicos Sauna, 4 seater, perfect condition, selling at bargain price.

Contact;

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The Hat Sale: Sunday 16th February 1-4pm in Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise. Stylish headpieces available to purchase. Perfect for ladies day, weddings and special occasions. All proceeds to St. Colmans pitch development fund. Ladies style event on the day also. Two stylish events one exclusive venue!

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